

EPISODE #120  
October 20, 1994

# The Valley COMIC

N ♦ E ♦ W ♦ S

Professional Wrestler Luscious  
Larry gets honest during a  
recent Marriage Counselling Session.



"Honey... I've been faking it  
for all these years..."

© Karen Favreau '94

## ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

### STORIES:

USA TODAY  
AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS  
ANOTHER GLASS OF JUICE?  
FIDEL WHILE ROME BURNS  
BEYOND POLITIX

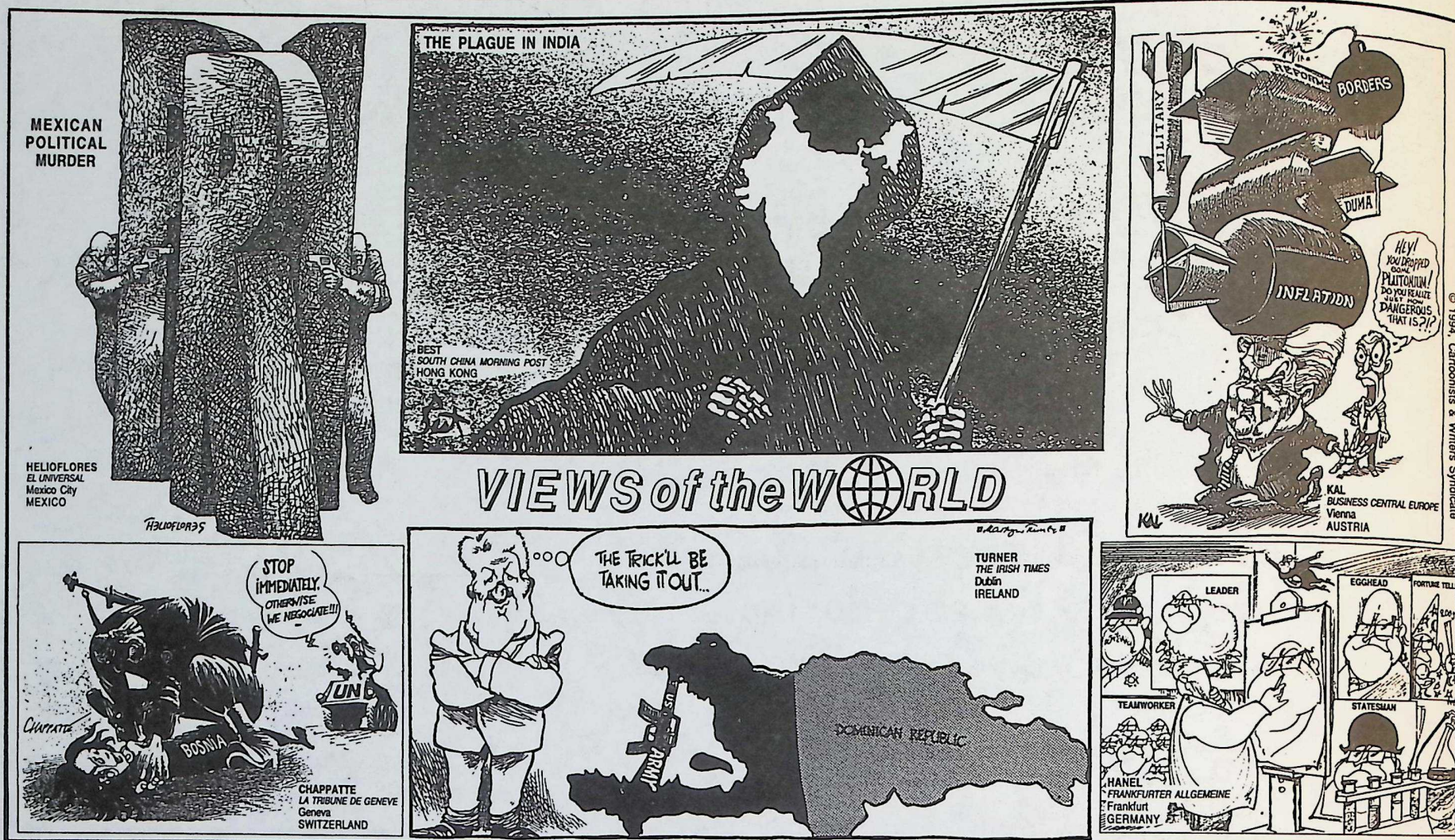
## INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,  
DOONESBURY,  
CALVIN & HOBBS,  
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,  
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,  
THIS MODERN WORLD,  
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,  
L.A. CUCARACHA,  
MIKE CHRISMAN,  
EARTHWEEK





# VIEWS OF THE WORLD



## Food

Potatoes Peaches Plums Cherries Strawbe

Oregano Mushrooms Oranges Bananas Corn Sweet Chilis

Apples Pecans Raisins Squash Watermelon Grapes Cucumbers

Chives Summer Squash Lettuce Celery Green Beans Cucumbers

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- Paradise of India** A special Sunday Brunch featuring South Indian food Masata Dosai 12-3 87 Main St., Amherst 256-1067
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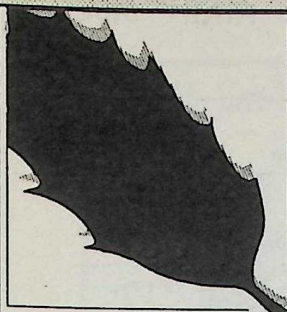
**SUBWAY**

4 Main Street • Amherst  
256-1919



# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



(Mike Chrisman has allowed us to reprint this poignant letter to his daughter, who is toiling in a far-away land called Philadelphia.)

Dear Daughter,

I've never seen the Fall colors so spectacular. Of course, I say that every year. But *this* year, the trees are simply ablaze with color. Just last weekend, quite a few actually burst into flame, and local firefighters are standing watch around dozens more that seem to be kind of smoldering. The whole area is in a tizzy, wondering when the networks will be flying crews in, like they did in Idaho. It's a tragedy-in-the-making for sure, but it does have an up side: the smoky haze really creates a picturesque Indian Summer ambiance. Excuse me — Generic Peoples Summer ambiance.

The past weekend was of course Columbus Day Sale-a-bration, and you simply could not move for all the leaf-peepers. Even way up by our house, they'd come zooming over the ridge next door, then screech to a stop when they saw our view — I could imagine the conversation: "Oh, honey, it's sooo lovely..., oh, stop just a second...." And he grits his teeth and jams on the brakes, because all *he* wants to do is get out of these damn hills where the car radio won't pick up the Patriots' game.

Which leads me to a question: Why is it always the guys who do the driving? Are women really afraid of cars? Or does the woman feel she's, like, Bobbitt-izing the guy if she wants to take the wheel? I mean, wouldn't it be infinitely easier to do the stuff she wants if *she's* in the driver's seat? "Look, Roger — there's another antique store ahead....," as she careens into the parking lot, yanks on the parking brake, whips the keys out of the ignition, and says, "You can come with me, or sit in the car and sulk." I mean, what's he gonna do — hotwire the car?

It's like almost the last taboo. You've got taller women going out with shorter guys, which is *definitely* the last taboo ... and then you've got women driving guys around, which happens as often as the Red Sox win the World Series. I wonder if there ever *was* a taller woman going out with a shorter guy, would *she* drive?

And speaking of driving — man, that speed limit down on the Interstate is outa control! You got all these kamikaze characters from New York and Boston, checking out the foliage at 75 mph, then when the limit drops to 55, they slow down to maybe 70. No wonder there's no respect for law & order any more. And hey — speeding is more than just a crime; it's a gateway crime. How many speeders are content to stop with speeding? Next thing you know, they're running red lights, then they're passing bad checks ... and before you can holler "Just say No," they're illegally dumping toxic waste in somebody's aquifer. I'll bet old Saddam Hussein was a speeder once, back when Iraq had money to build roads.

Love, Dad

## The Valley Comic News

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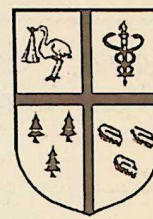
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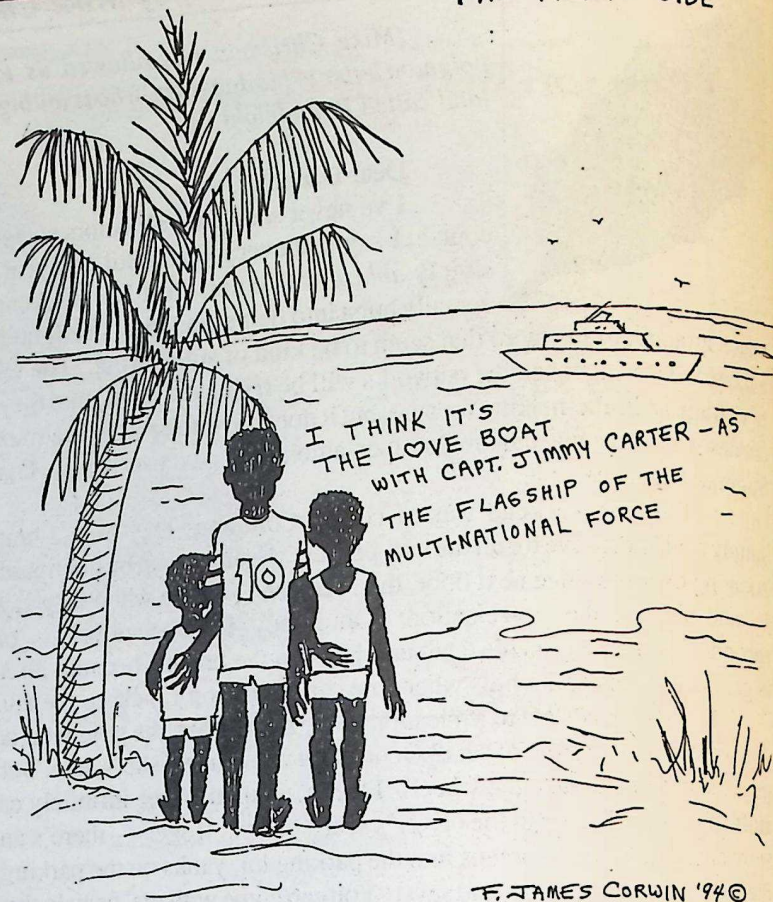
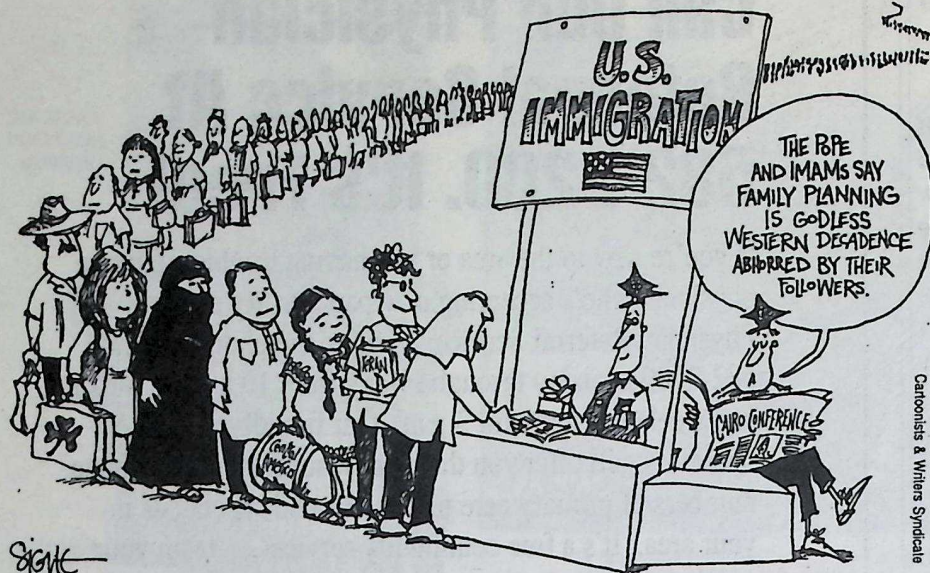
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• Fri-Sat 10am-10pm  
• Sun 12noon-9pm AP-1

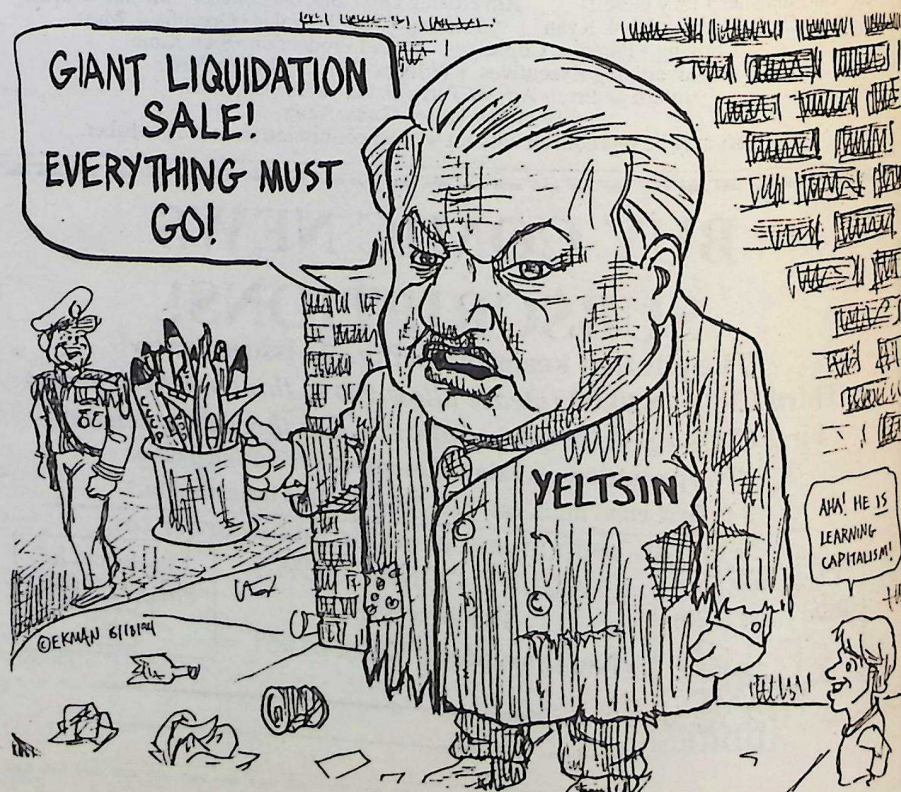


# AS THE WORLD SQUIRMS

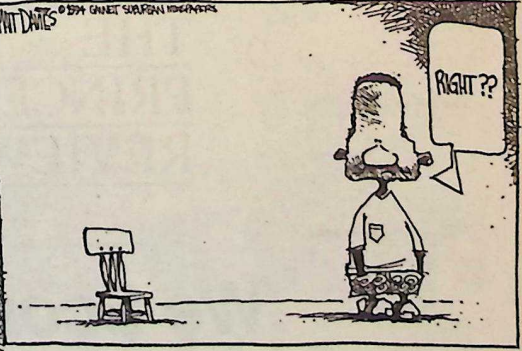
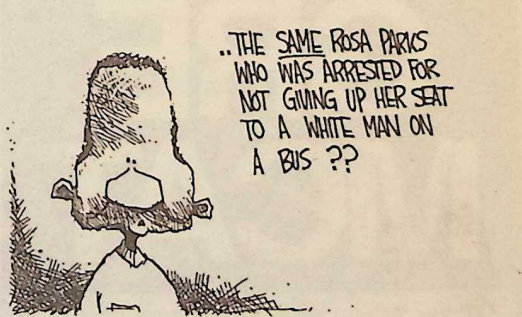
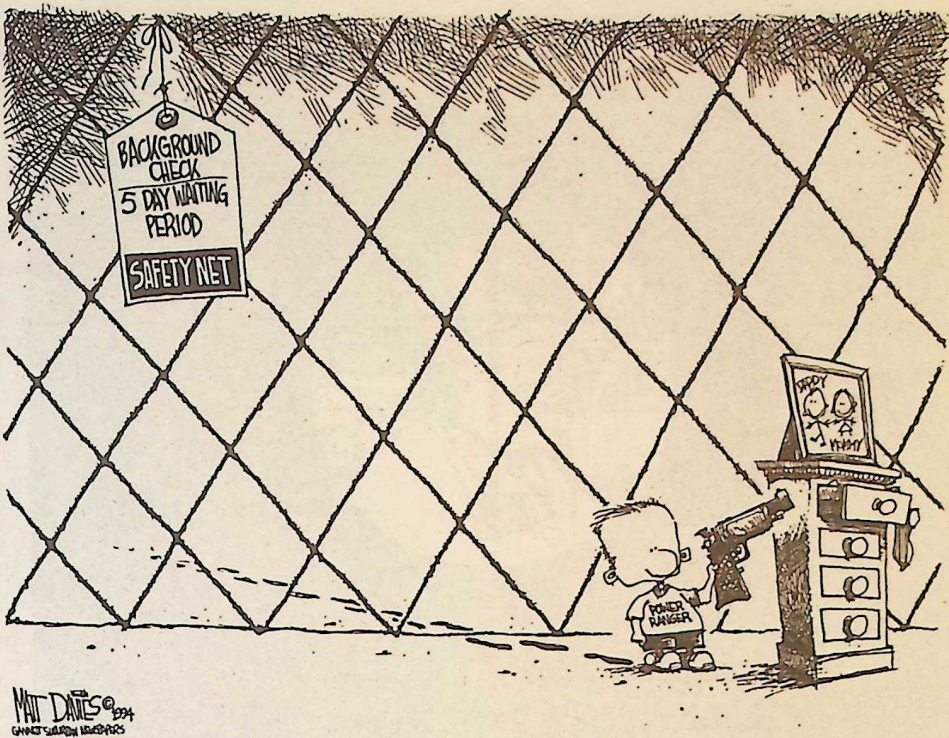
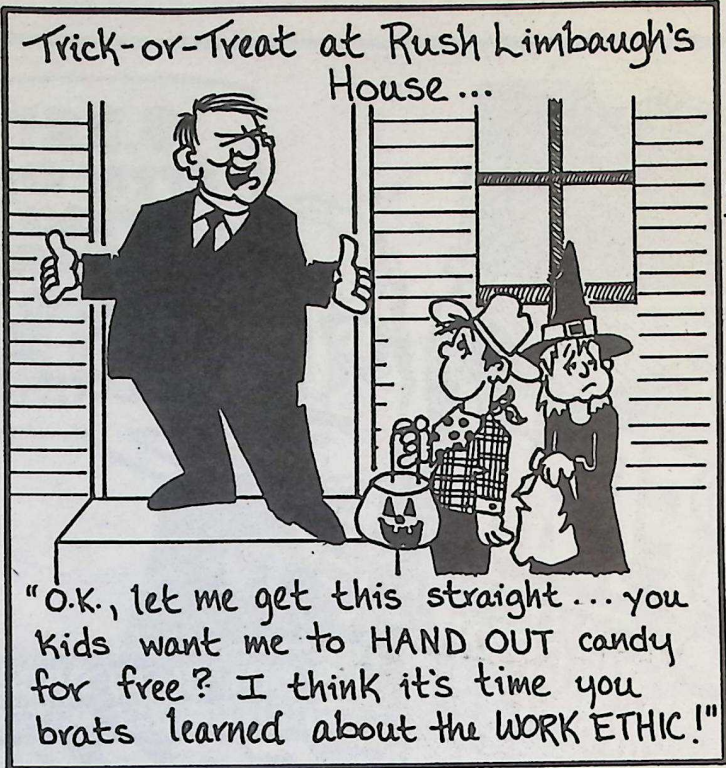
THE RIGHT SIDE



## Fat Man AND LITTLE BOY











**RIGHT TO LIFER'S RIFLE**

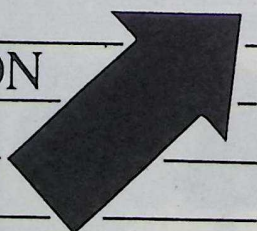


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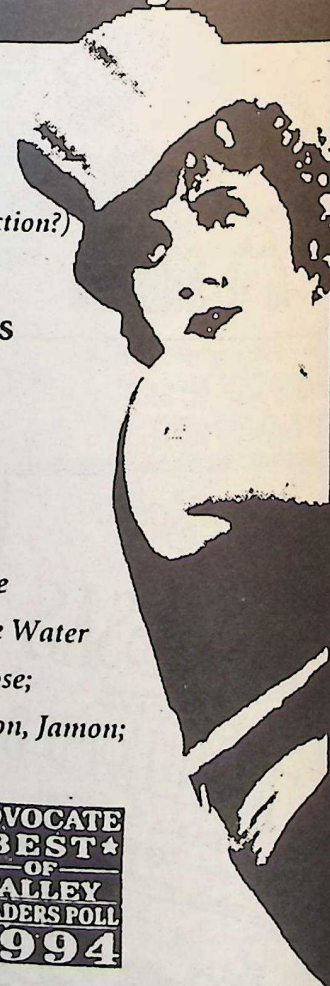


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# BEYOND POLITIX



ARGOSIUS, THE GREEK GOD OF PARKING PLACES, AND ST. ROY, THE CATHOLIC SAINT OF PARKING SPACES CONFRONT EACH OTHER WHEN CALLED ON BY TWO PIOUS BELIEVERS.  
OFF THE DEEP END ©1991 Andrew Lehman

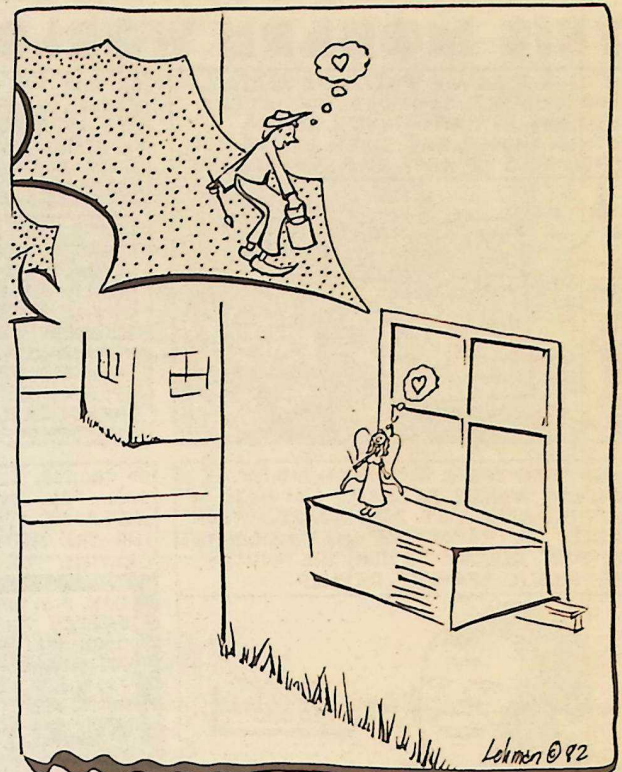


THE OLD BOARS' NETWORK...\*

WELL, PRESCOTT, THERE REALLY ARE NO OFFICIAL OPENINGS IN THE FIRM NOW, BUT SEEING AS HOW YOU AND I WENT TO THE SAME STY....

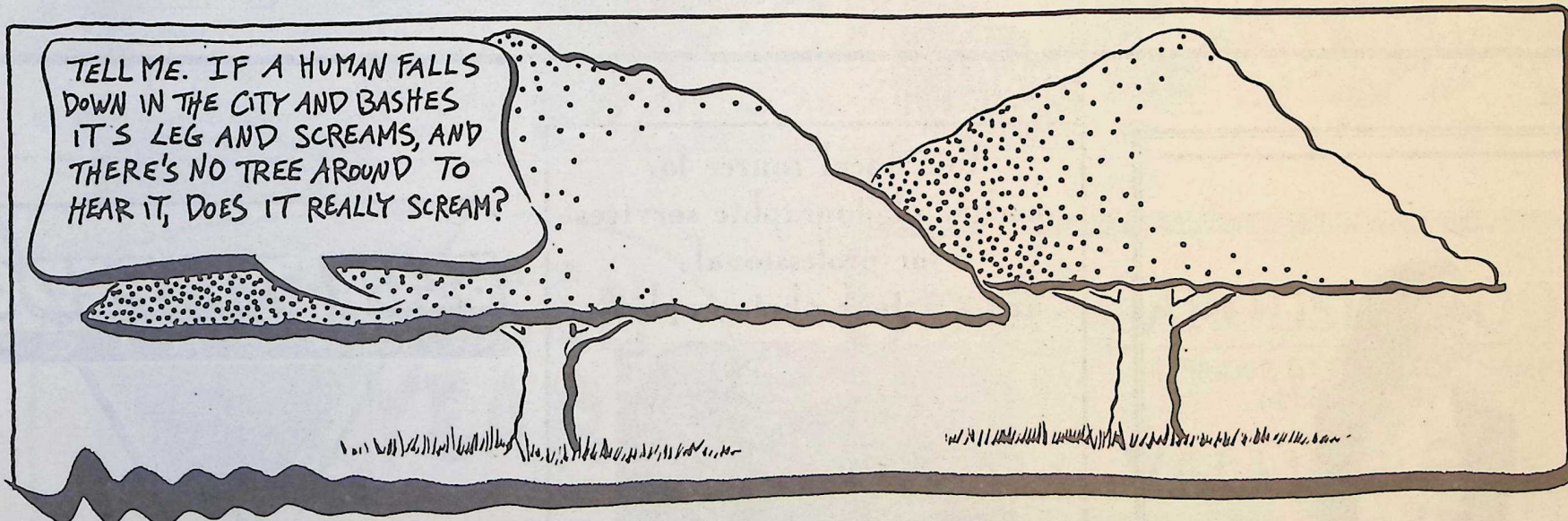
\*OR THE RANK HAVE THEIR PRIVILEGES

JENNIFER BERMAN ©1992



JACK FROST, THE SPIT OF COMING WINTER, AND JILL-CHILL, THE AIR CONDITIONER FAIRY MEET IN A SUDDEN MID-SEPTEMBER FREEZE.

Lehman ©82



TELL ME. IF A HUMAN FALLS DOWN IN THE CITY AND BASHES ITS LEG AND SCREAMS, AND THERE'S NO TREE AROUND TO HEAR IT, DOES IT REALLY SCREAM?

OFF THE DEEP END ©1991 Andrew Lehman

THINK'R



WILLIAM G. DUFFY JR. '93

PUMPKIN PATCH



identity crisis

CAMPER ©92



# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

## THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 10-12-94

IT IS A STRANGE POLITICAL SEASON... FOR INSTANCE, CONSIDER THE INTERVENTION IN HAITI-- WHICH, AMONG OTHER THINGS, HAS GIVEN US THE ODD SPECTACLE OF ANTI-WAR REPUBLICANS...



AND THEN THERE IS THE CANDIDACY OF OLIVER NORTH, RECENTLY ENDORSED AT A FUND-RAISER BY DAN QUAYLE... WHEN ASKED BY REPORTERS WHAT MR. QUAYLE'S SUPPORT MEANT TO HIM, THE WOULD-BE PUBLIC SERVANT REPLIED:



\*ACTUAL QUOTE.

OR TAKE THE DEATH OF HEALTH CARE REFORM... THE FINAL NAIL IN THE COFFIN WAS APPARENTLY A REPUBLICAN THREAT TO FILIBUSTER EVERYTHING ON THE DEMOCRATIC AGENDA, INCLUDING THE GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE...



OF COURSE, ALL OF THESE STORIES WILL SOON FALL BY THE WAYSIDE... AS THE MEDIA DEVOTE THEIR ENERGY TO FEEDING THE NATION'S ALL-CONSUMING CRAVING FOR MORE NEWS ABOUT O.J...



WHAT KIND OF DUST MOTE, DAMMIT?! -- I WANT DETAILS!!

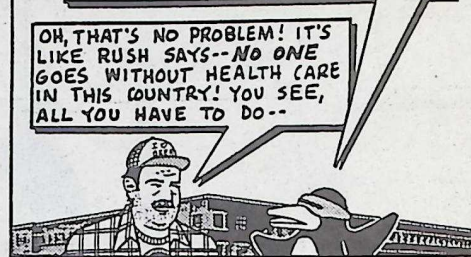
## THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 10-12-94

BOY, AM I RELIEVED THAT THEY GAVE UP ON HEALTH CARE! THE LAST THING WE NEED IS TO LET GOVERNMENT TAKE OVER ONE-SEVENTH OF THE U.S. ECONOMY!



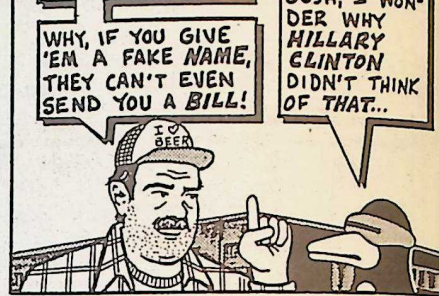
WILBUR, YOU'RE UNEMPLOYED AND UNINSURED! STOP PARROTING INDUSTRY PROPAGANDA FOR A MOMENT AND THINK-- WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU GET SICK?



I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T WANT GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRATS CHOOSING MY DOCTOR! AND ANYWAY, WE ALREADY HAVE THE FINEST HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE WORLD!



--IS GO TO THE NEAREST EMERGENCY ROOM!



OF COURSE. GOSH, I WONDER WHY HILLARY CLINTON DIDN'T THINK OF THAT...

Photo: Jennifer Burdick



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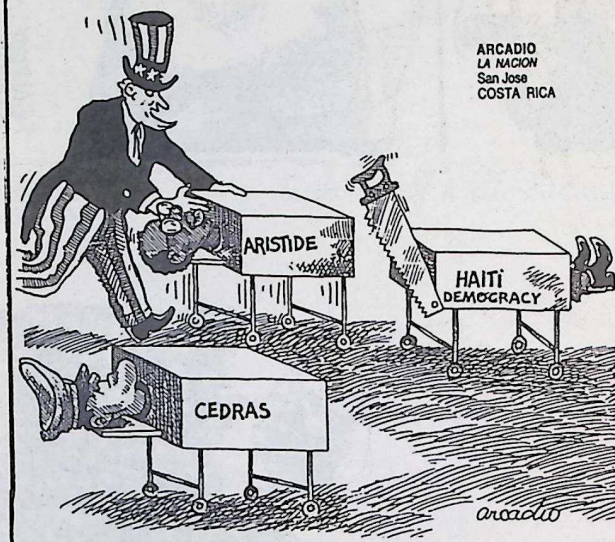
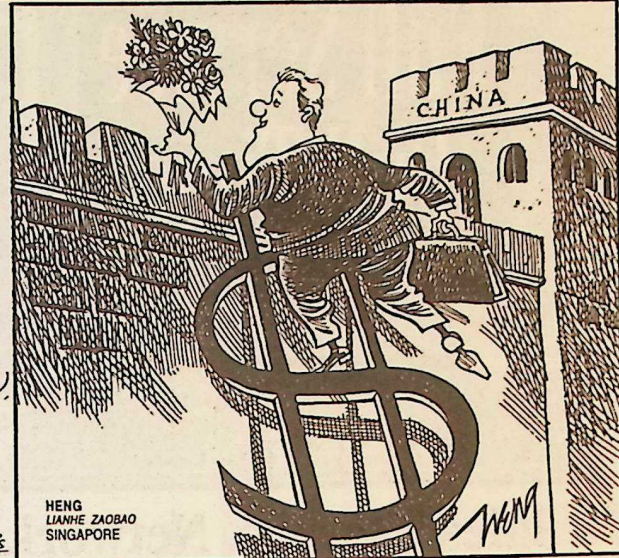
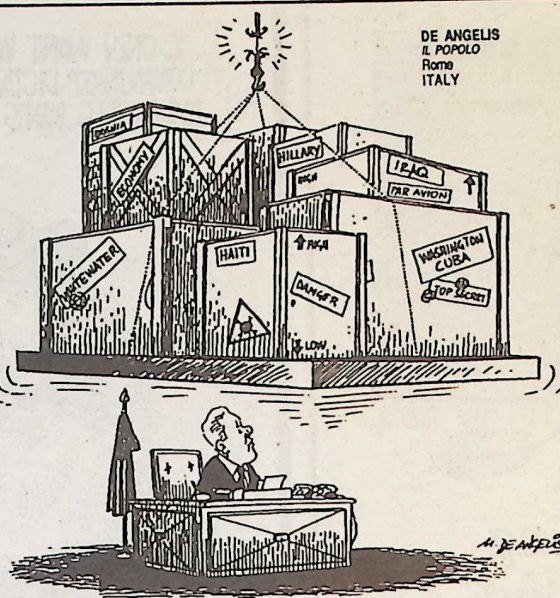
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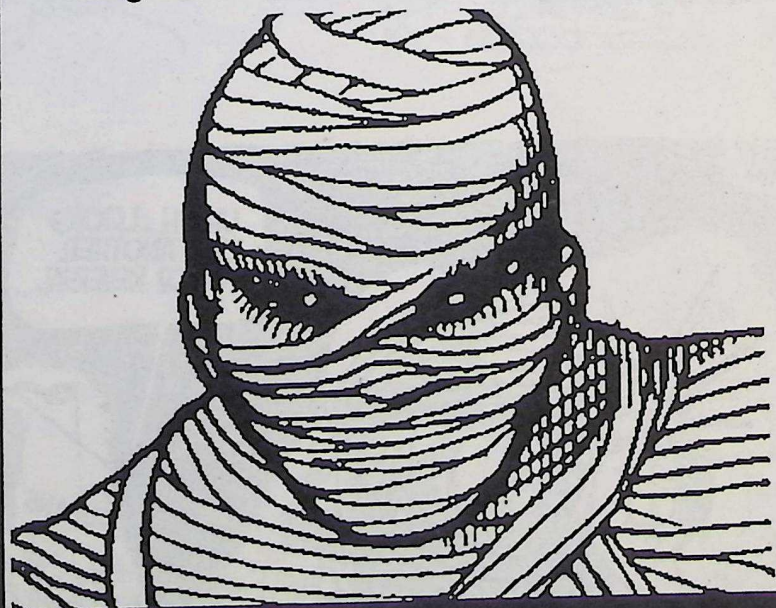
# VIEWS OF THE WORLD



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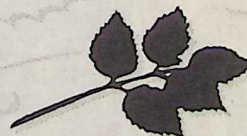


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# FIDEL WHILE ROME BURNS

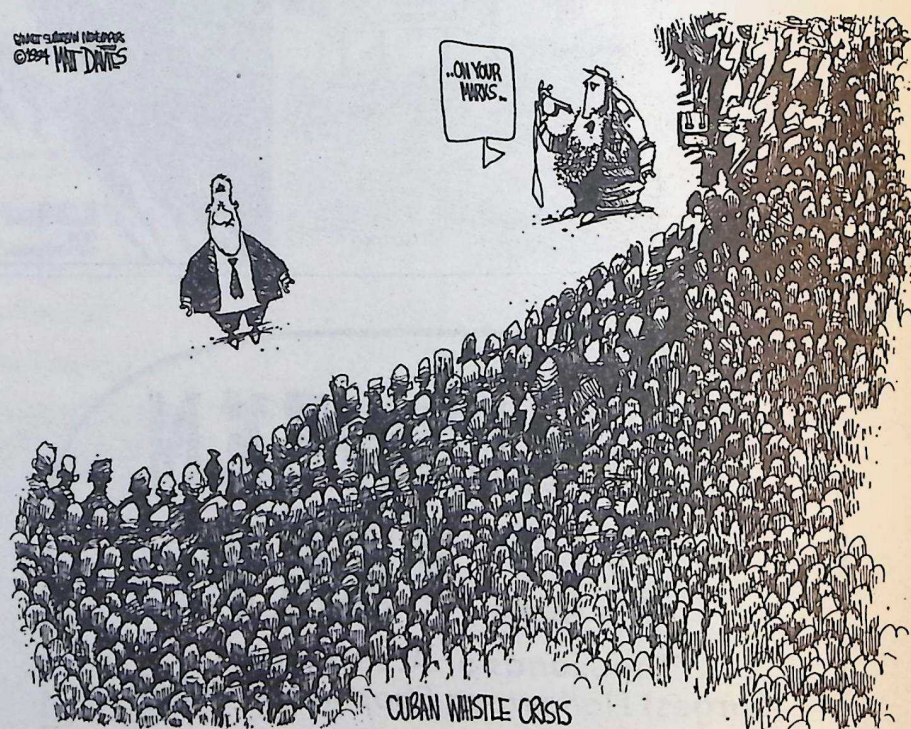
I ONLY WANT WHAT ANY  
COMMUNIST DICTATOR WHO OPPRESSES  
HIS PEOPLE WANTS FROM THE U.S. ...



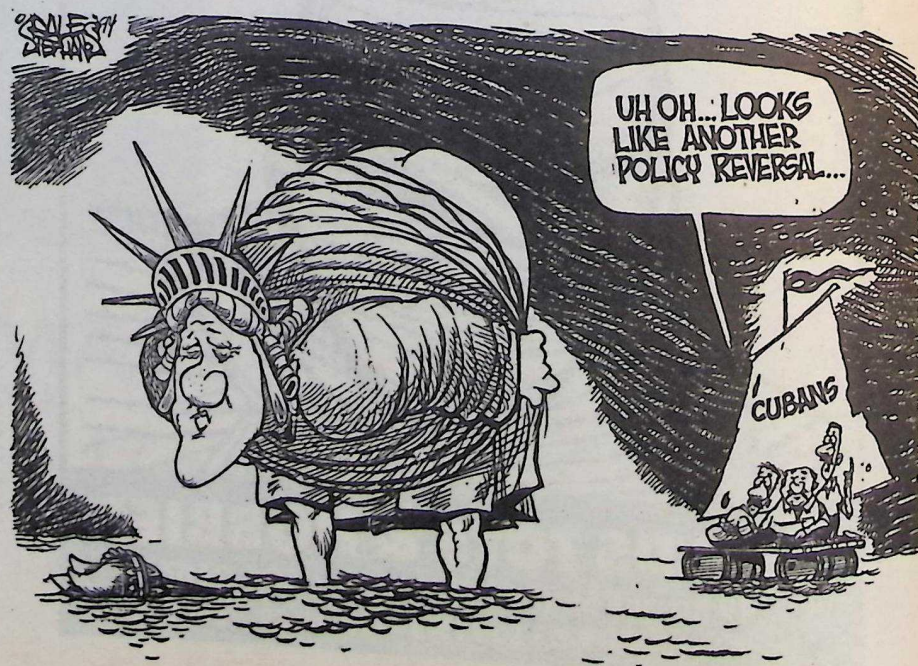
...MOST FAVORED NATION  
TRADE STATUS!



CHUCK S. GIBSON ILLUSTRATIONS  
© 1994 THE DAVIS



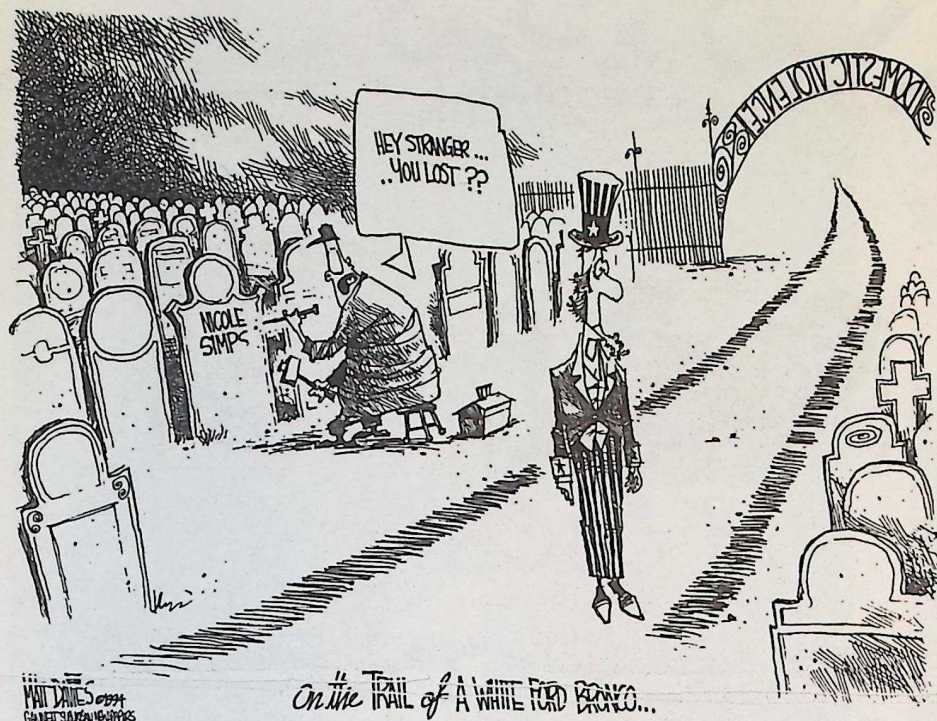
CUBAN WHISTLE CRISIS



UH OH... LOOKS  
LIKE ANOTHER  
POLICY REVERSAL...



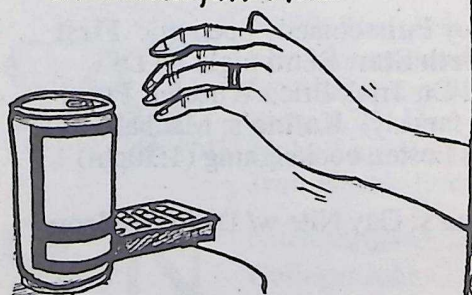
# ANOTHER GLASS OF JUICE?



...I CAN QUIT ANY TIME I WANT...



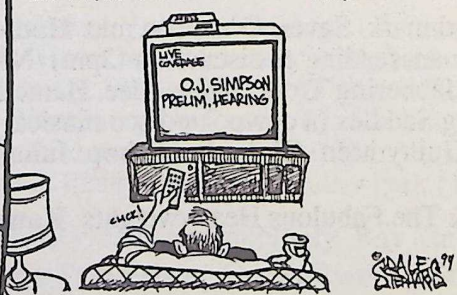
...TOMORROW, I'LL STOP...



...I DON'T NEED IT, I JUST LIKE IT...



...I SWEAR THIS IS THE LAST TIME...



MATT DAVIES



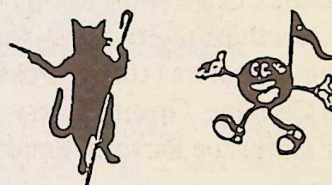
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BAND

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# VISITORS



## THU TWENTY

**Katina's:** Selectrocution **Bay State Hotel:** Hair Volume, Bugjuice, Grunk **Iron Horse:** Vance Gilbert, plus Klar's Bar (CD tunes till 1am) **Hadley Pub:** blues open mic **Smith College, Sage Hall:** Kate Clinton **Seven O's:** DJ dance club **Pearl Street:** Skavoovee '94, The Toasters, The Scofflaws, The Pietasters, Spring Heeled Jack, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. **North Star:** Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Steven

## FRI TWENTYONE

**Pearl Street:** Max Creek, plus Retro night, w/ dj Dennis **Seven O's:** Country Comfort **Hotel Northampton:** Art Steele Band **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Loose Caboose **Iron Horse:** Joel Zoss & Special Forces (7pm), Xavier, Flying Alligators (10pm) **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** comedy open mic showcase **Bay State Hotel:** Soup, Blair's Carriage, Green Factory **Katina's:** College dance party **North Star:** 18+ dance party, w/ DJ Betsy **Green River Cafe:** Joe Parsons, Frank Gottwalz

## SAT TWENTYTWO

**Katina's:** Selectrocution **Green River Cafe:** Under The House **Bay State Hotel:** Lyres, Swampgirl, The Maggies **Peking Garden/Humorworks:** UMass alumnae comics **Hotel Northampton:** Marion Groves **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ dj JP **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Walt Willey **Pearl Street:** John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band, plus dance party w/ dj Lance **North Star:** Sandie Russell (jazz guitar), plus dance party, w/ DJ Steven **Montague Bookmill:** Jim Henry, Craig Eastman, Guy Devito **Seven O's:** Country Comfort **Iron Horse:** Ted Hawkins (7pm), Ominous Seapods (10pm)

## SUN TWENTYTHREE

**Northampton Brewery:** Chet Keefe Band, Birthmark **Seven O's:** open mic **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **First Churches, N.Hamp:** Howard Zinn, Jack Hoffman, reading & discussion (2pm) **North Star:** Retro night w/ DJ Betsey **Iron Horse:** Folk Showcase, featuring Jabbering Trout, James Mee, Hamell On Trial, Erica Wheeler **Pearl Street:** Deee-Lite **Academy of Music:** Flaming Saddles (a cowpoke/disco musical fantasy) **Katina's:** Madball, Hate Breed **Amherst College:** Dave Alvin and the Guilty Men **Globe Bookshop:** Julius Lester, booksigning (1:30pm)

## MON TWENTYFOUR

**Bay State Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Katina's:** Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve **Iron Horse:** Leo Kottke

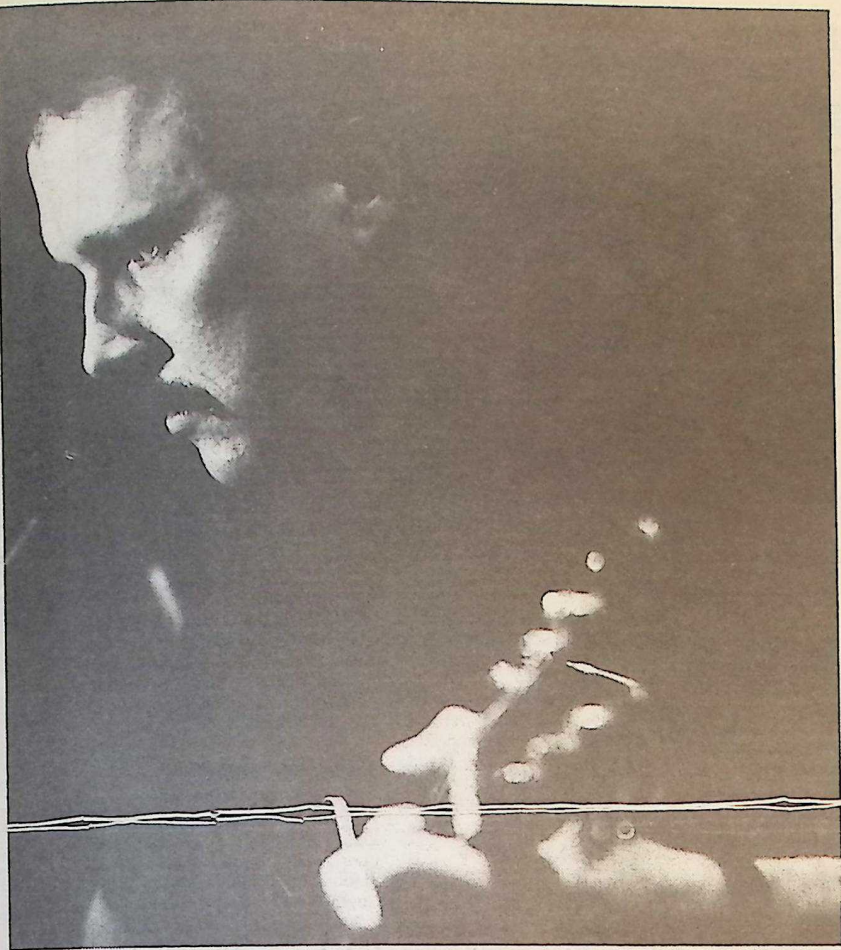
## TUE TWENTYFIVE

**Northampton Brewery:** open mic, w/ host Jamie Morton **Iron Horse:** Battlefield Band **Hadley Pub:** open mic **Pearl Street:** Koko Taylor, Mark Nomad Band **Smith College, John M. Greene Hall:** They Might Be Giants

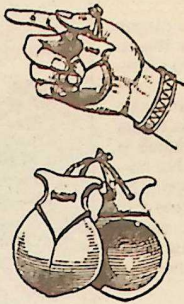
## WED TWENTYSIX

**Hadley Pub:** Reggae party **North Star:** Swing dance night **Iron Horse:** The Crescent Dancers; music by Anatolia **Pearl Street:** Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Gutterbirds **The Pub:** Art Steele Blues Trio **Bay State Hotel:** Hotel Massachusetts — The Veronica Cartwrights, Tizzy, Home, Tom Shea





Peter Nelson will perform at the Benefit for Bosnia, Thurs., Nov 3, at First Churches, Northampton. (7:30 show time) Tobey photo



**THU**  
TWENTYSEVEN

**Seven O's:** DJ Dance Club **Hadley Pub:** open mic blues **Bay State Hotel:** Miss Reed, Bender, Dave Salamander **Academy of Music:** Flaming Saddles (a cowpoke/disco musical fantasy) **Pearl Street:** Frente!, Gigolo Aunts, Home, plus 18+ dance party, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Center for the Arts:** "The Day Room", by Don DeLillo **Katina's:** Selectrocution **North Star:** Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Steven **Iron Horse:** John Hartford, plus Klar's Bar (CD tunes till 1am)

**FRI**  
TWENTYEIGHT

**Northampton Center for the Arts:** "The Day Room", by Don DeLillo **Green River Cafe:** Andrea Ayvasian **Bay State Hotel:** The Coyotes, The McNixons **Hotel Northampton:** Mark Nomad Band **North Star:** Dance party, w/ DJ Betsey **Pearl Street:** Black 47, plus Retro night w/ dj Dennis **Seven O's:** Showdown **Katina's:** College dance party **Iron Horse:** Sleepy Labeeef (7pm), 5 Chinese Brothers (10pm)

**SAT**  
TWENTYNINE

**North Star:** Sue Burkhart (jazz guitar) plus 21+ dance party w/ dj Steven **Bay State Hotel:** The Sighs, Tiny Lights, The Mommyheads **Hotel Northampton:** Andy Jaffe & Herman Hampton **Green River Cafe:** Apalooza **Northampton Brewery:** Wacky-Tacky Halloween Costume Party, w/ Ray Mason Band **Hadley Pub:** Island dance party w/ DJ Dan **Northampton Center for the Arts:** "The Day Room", by Don DeLillo **Seven O's:** Showdown **Huke Lau:** Rosie O'Donnell **Pearl Street:** Extremos Halloween Party, plus Saturday night dance party w/ dj Lance **Iron Horse:** Deborah Francoise (7pm), Trailer Park (10pm)

**SUN**  
THIRTY

**Northampton Brewery:** Bender, Rent Party **Bay State Hotel:** Picasso Trigger, Bracket, Mother Holly **Amherst College:** John Gorka, Pete Nelson **Green River Cafe:** Musical Moms (3-5pm) **Katina's:** Sam Black Church **Seven O's:** open mic w/ Mark Snow **Hadley Pub:** comedy open mic **North Star:** Costume ball — prizes, Retro dance party w/ dj Betsey

**MON**  
THIRTYONE

**Bay State Hotel:** Blue Halloween, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights (free!) **Iron Horse:** Bela Fleck and the Flecktones (7 & 10 pm) **Katina's:** Gay Night, w/ DJ Steve **Pearl Street:** Beausoleil **Seven O's:** Halloween party (costume prizes)

**TUE**  
ONE

**Northampton Brewery:** open mic w/ host Chairman **Hadley Pub:** open mic

**WED**  
TWO

**Bay State Hotel:** real, actual, certified live music **Pearl Street:** Gay Night, w/ music by Spin, Inc. **Northampton Brewery:** Klezmir Trio **Hadley Pub:** Reggae party **North Star:** C & W dancing



# IRON HORSE MUSIC HALL

THUR 20

VANCE GILBERT

FRI 21

7pm

JOEL ZOSS

and Special Forces

FRI 21

10pm

XAVIER

plus Liquid Alligators

SAT 22

7pm

TED HAWKINS

SAT 22

10pm

OMINOUS SEAPODS

SUN 23

FOLK SHOWCASE

Jabbering Trout  
James Mee, Hamell on  
Trial, Erica Wheeler

MON 24

LEO KOTTKE

TUES 25

BATTLEFIELD BAND

WED 26

THE CRESCENT  
DANCERS

Music by Anatolia

THUR 27

JOHN HARTFORD

FRI 28

7pm

SLEEPY LABEEF

FRI 28

10pm

5 CHINESE BROTHERS

SAT 29

7pm

DEBORAH FRANCOISE

SAT 29

10pm

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## EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

## Rat Plague

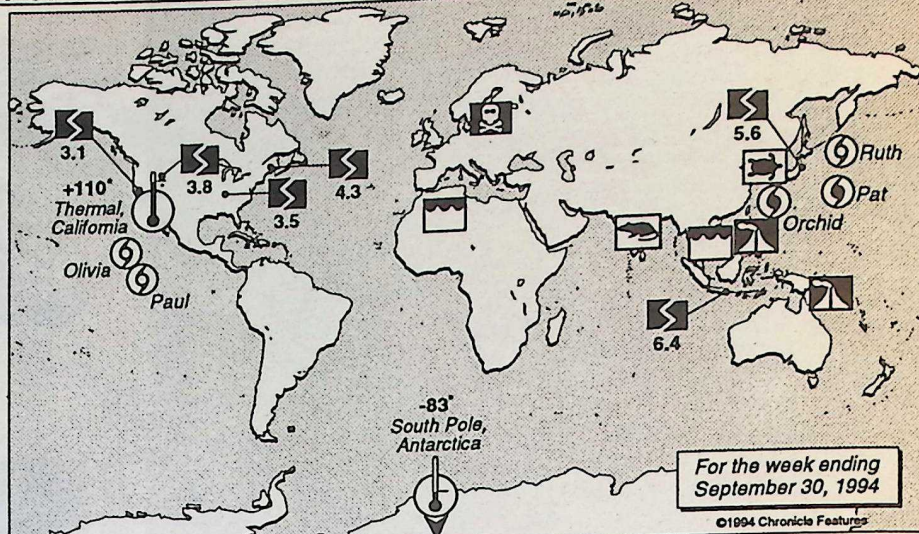
As the pneumonic plague epidemic in India threatened to spread into neighboring countries, officials in the affected regions mounted a massive effort to eradicate the billions of rats that spread the disease. Plague is basically a disease of rats, but normally the rodents are not affected by it. The situation becomes acute only when the disease grows strong enough to kill rats and spreads to the fleas infesting them, which then bite humans.

One small factor in the growth of the rat population is the practice of some Hindu sects who worship them, and are reluctant to kill the possible incarnations of their ancestors. A temple has even been built near Bikaner, in the western state of Rajasthan, to honor rats. There, rodents are revered and treated to sweet and melodious music.

However, poverty and poor hygiene are the principal reasons for the growing number of rats across India, and it could take many months to bring this new and deadly epidemic under control.

## Time Bombs

The Baltic Sea is a potential "time bomb" because of caches of rusting poison gas shells which litter the sea bed since they were dumped by Allied forces after World War II, a German author warned in Bonn. The shells were discarded into the Baltic between 1945 and 1948 because the victorious forces had no clear idea of what to do with the lethal poisons, said Frank Politz at the launch of a book on the threat. The canisters hold such deadly contents as mustard gas and Zyklon B, the notorious poison used in Nazi concentration camps. Fishermen, who regularly haul up the poison shells in their nets, are currently the most at risk, Politz said.



## Floods

Severe flooding in the Mekong Delta has left 34 dead, mostly children, and \$30 million in damages since the beginning of September. Vietnam's An Giang Province, bordering Cambodia, has been the worst hit.

Flash floods caused by weekend downpours claimed 32 lives in the Algerian Plateau. Fast-moving flood waters hit without warning, washing away homes in low-lying regions.

## Tropical Storms

Two people were dead and one other missing in central Japan after powerful typhoon Orchid slammed into the Kii Peninsula. Downpours from the storm were expected to ease the country's severe water shortage.

Tropical storm Ruth and typhoon Pat threatened shipping lanes to the south and east of Japan. The warm waters off Mexico spawned late-season tropical storms Olivia and

Paul, which sent thunderstorms surging into the southwestern U.S.

## Earthquakes

Windows in Kentucky and southern Illinois were rattled by a rare tremor centered on the historic New Madrid Fault. Earth movements also were felt in northeastern Japan, Java, Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula, Northern California and Wyoming.

## Volcanoes

A dusk-to-dawn curfew was in force in Papua New Guinea's devastated port of Rabaul in anticipation of more intense volcanic activity. Two volcanoes on either side of Rabaul's once-picturesque harbor have been spewing ash and smoke on the city — now covered under a thick coating of debris from the previous week's explosive eruptions.

Weary residents around the flanks of Mount Pinatubo, in the northern Philippines, were evacu-

ated yet again as further mud flows cascaded down the slopes of the simmering volcano. At least 24 people were killed by the waves of volcanic debris towering as high as 12 feet during severe rainstorms.

## Guardian Dragons

A pair of turtles whose capture was blamed for months of drought and poor fishing were released in an elaborate Buddhist ceremony off the South Korean port of Pusan. As 2,000 people watched and chanted prayers, a maritime police patrol boat carried the turtles, believed to be the "guardian dragon deities of the oceans," back to their home in the open sea, the Yonhap news agency reported. The two, a male and a female, were freed where they had been snared in fishing nets a day apart three months ago.

Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.

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Amy Fairchild  
Chris Haynes  
Justina & Joyce  
Radoslav Lorkovic  
Peter Nelson  
Louise Taylor  
Erica Wheeler  
and others!

953 WRSH

Valley Comic News




**The Big Dry**

 Australia's worst drought in memory, dubbed "The Big Dry," is not only killing crops and livestock, but threatens an entire way of life. Increasing numbers of outback dwellers are packing up and heading for the bright lights of Australia's coastal cities. Farmers with land handed down through generations find themselves with no crops to sell and huge overdrafts to pay.

Meanwhile in Queensland and New South Wales, stretches of tinder-dry forests ignited into huge blazes during another difficult week for firefighters in the parched coastal region.


Thirsty kangaroos cluttered one of the country's longest highways to drink from puddles of rainwater, causing an unusual threat to outback motorists. Police warned travelers across the Nullarbor Plain along the southern end of the continent not to drive at night because of the difficulty of avoiding the marsupials. Rain fell on the drought-stricken plain for the first time in months. Most of it was absorbed into dry soil, but puddles were left on the highway.

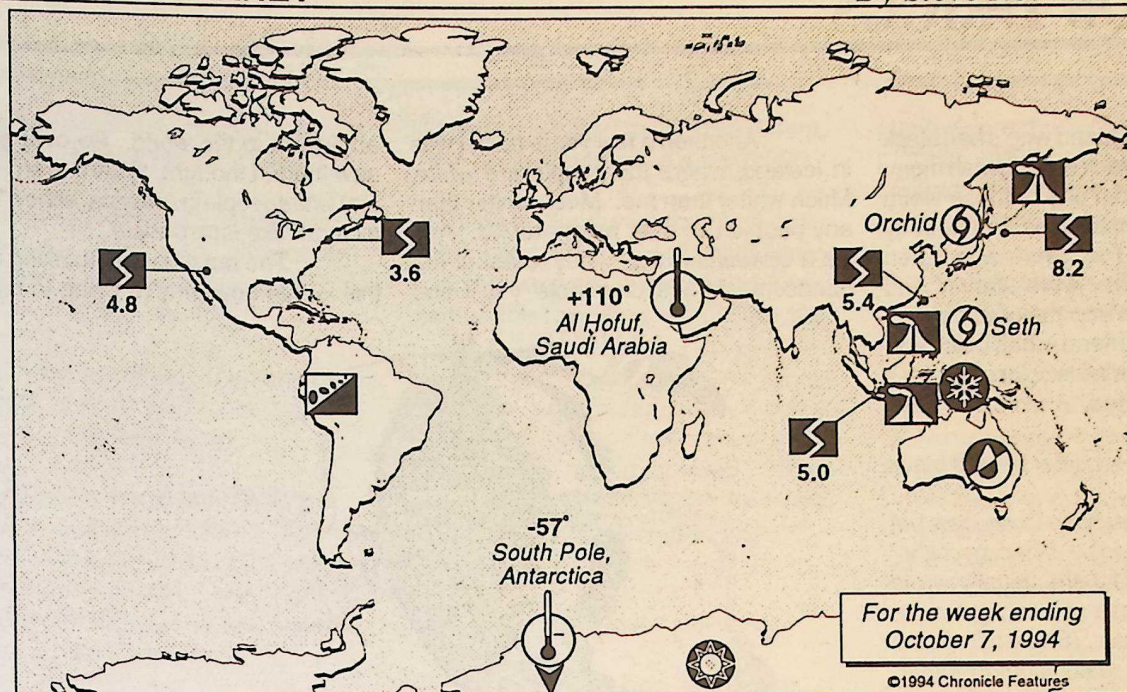
**Tropical Storms**


 Typhoon Orchid pounded western Japan, wrecking 90 homes and injuring at least nine people. The storm went on to bring heavy downpours to Russia's Far East around Vladivostok.

Typhoon Seth developed over warm ocean waters of the central Pacific and threatened the northern Philippines late in the week.


**Mudslide**

 An avalanche carrying tons of rock and dirt in Ecuador's Amazon region killed nine people, with eight of the victims still buried under the debris. The disaster occurred in Morona-Santiago province.

**Tropical Snows**

 Three children died and 166 people were taken ill following a freak snowstorm in Indonesia's easternmost province of Irian Jaya. The storm ravaged the villages of Koyawage I and II in the Baliem Valley, destroying crops in several plantations. A spine of high mountains runs the length of the province, and the unusual wintry conditions probably were the result of snow-bearing clouds blowing in over the valley from the higher elevations.

**Earthquakes**

 One of the most powerful tremors ever to rock northern Japan killed at least 10 people from Hokkaido to the disputed Kuril Islands. The minute-long "Great Earthquake" also triggered nine-foot-high ocean waves that swamped many coastal areas.


A Pacific-wide tsunami warning was issued before it became appar-

ent that only areas within a few hundred miles of the quake's epicenter were threatened.

A strong earthquake rocked Taiwan, breaking windows and shaking tiles from buildings in towns along the island's east coast.

Earth movements also were felt in southern New England, Sumatra, Java and along the Arizona-Sonora border region.

**Eruptions**


 The third most powerful eruption of Klyuchevskaya Sopka Volcano on the Kamchatka Peninsula posed a threat to the busy air routes between North America and Southeast Asia. Ash clouds from the mountain soared to a height of almost 13 miles, and red-hot pyroclastic debris reached nearly three miles high. Vulcanologists compared the eruption to the 1980 blast of Mount St. Helens in Oregon.

Philippine volcano Mount Mayon, which killed 77 people and

injured 100 others in a surprise eruption in 1993, showed signs of renewed activity. Vulcanologists warned residents to avoid a five-mile risk zone at the mountain's eastern and southeastern flanks.

Officials in Indonesia monitored the continuing eruptive phase of Anak Krakatau (Krakatoa) which is spewing large quantities of ash, and stones as large as human heads.

**Ozone Hole**

 The hole in the ozone layer has widened dramatically over Antarctica, and British scientists warned it could disappear altogether over that continent by the year 2005. The latest readings from the British Antarctic Survey's Faraday base showed that 70 percent of the layer which shields the earth from the sun's most harmful rays has been depleted this season.

*Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center and the World Meteorological Organization.*



# MIDNIGHT

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# JOE BOB BRIGGS

I have this friend who's half black and half Jewish. Black dad, Jewish mom. And Mom is *not* from one of those weird North African Jewish *tribes* that nobody knew about until five years ago when Israel found out they were starvin' and started airliftin' 'em into the country.

Nope, my friend is half black and half white. She's kinda the color of Taster's Choice Decaffeinated. And so one day I asked her:

Does she consider herself black or white?

Not that you have to *choose*, but conceivably she could be either one, right?

And she said she usually wrote down black, because you can get more grant money that way. (She works in the arts.) She wasn't really kidding either. She didn't really *care* whether she was black or white.

So anyhow, we started talkin' about it, and I pointed out how *nobody* in America, when it comes right down to it, is either black or white. One day I was driving past the Consulate of Zaire, and a bunch of African diplomats walked out in their diplomatic robes. And they were *black*. They were the deepest black I've ever seen. Shiny, radiant, perfect black, so black it was almost purple. And after I saw these guys, I thought, "Nobody in this country is really black. More like *mocha*."

And then a few years back I was in Iceland, where the people are *white*. Much whiter than me. Much whiter than any people I've ever been around. And it's a *beautiful* white. They're about the handsomest race of people you'll find

anywhere in the world. So ever since I saw them, I thought, "There aren't really any *white* people in America, either. We're all more like *latte* people."

The reason I was thinking about this is that now they're trying to make it

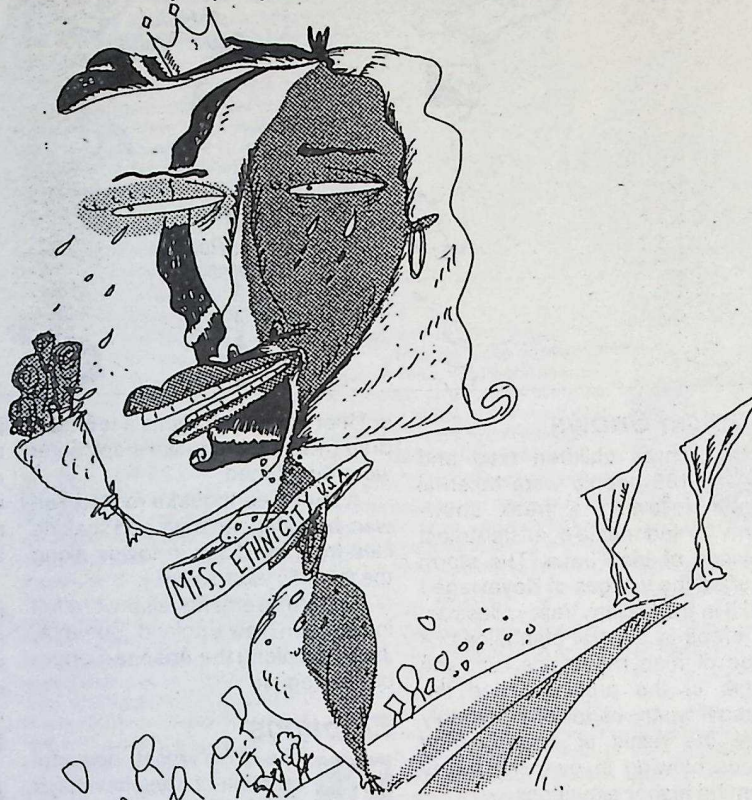
legal to write on the census that you're a "mixed race" person. (Up to now, you had to choose one or the other.) But everybody's against it, *especially* the people representing African-Americans.

And while we're on the subject, just what *is* an African-American? Does that include dark-skinned people who come from the West Indies? Does it include people who come from Brazil, and whose heritage has never touched Africa? And how do you know *if* you're from Africa or not? Not everybody has all the time that Alex Haley had.

So I had this idea. We should get a *perfect* Zairean, and a *perfect* Iclander, and set these two people about a mile apart. And then we should get a few thousand people to stand shoulder-to-shoulder between them, and we should arrange these people according to color, like on a spectrum, like Jesse Jackson's rainbow. The lighter ones on the left, darker ones on the right, a perfect continuous wave of color, until somebody, somewhere, notices what I've been noticin' for a long time:

You really can't tell *what* the heck anybody's color is. There's nineteen *jillion* different shades.

Maybe if we realized *that*, we wouldn't have so many opinions about it, you know what I mean?



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# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT by L.M. Boyd

Q. How salty does a lake have to be before it's called a "salt lake"?  
A. At least 3 percent. The oceans are about 3.5 percent.

When an El Salvadoran loses a tooth, s/he throws it onto the household roof for good luck. Archeological records show they've been doing this for at least 1,400 years.

The Swedish writer Ellen Key noted: "Love is moral even without legal marriage, but marriage is immoral without love."

An infant's vision switches from two-dimensional to three-dimensional at almost exactly four months of age.

Taxi drivers, liquor store clerks, and gas station attendants are the three occupational types most likely to be murdered on the job.

Early risers tend to adjust more easily to jet lag.

Q. How come most insect-eating plants are found in swampy places?  
A. Not enough nitrogen in swamps; these plants get theirs by dissolving bugs.

On average the state lotteries pay out \$45 for every \$100 they take in.

Jane Fonda once said of the acting profession, "You spend all your life trying to do something they put people in asylums for."

Baffin Bay, between Greenland and Canada, is six times bigger than the Mediterranean.

The English composer Sir Arthur Sullivan once congratulated Thomas Edison on the invention of the phonograph, but admitted he was "terrified that so much hideous music" would be on record forever.

A teardrop can kill a million germs.

Q. Who invented baseball cards?  
A. Early cigarette manufacturers. They needed cardboard stiffeners in their cigarette packs. The first stiffeners were too drab, so they decided to make them interesting. What they got turned out to be of particular interest to youngsters.

One man in 12 is color-blind. One woman in 200 is likewise.

At sea, a nautical mile is 6,076 feet, but on inland lakes, it's still 5,280.

The word "podunk," meaning any dinky little town, comes from a Native American word meaning "ground where the foot sinks in," or "marshy place."

Big rocks, some weighing as much as 100 pounds, leave deep tracks behind them as they periodically slide across the floor of California's Death Valley. No one knows what makes them move.

Cirrhosis is not reversible.

Q. At Disney World, what does "Epcot" stand for?

A. "Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow."

During hunting season, the most dangerous animal in the woods is the 16-19-year-old human. That age group is responsible for forty-six percent of all hunting accidents.

The wood in the heads of wooden golf clubs is usually made of laminated persimmon.

John Kenneth Galbraith said, "Money ranks with love as man's greatest source of joy. And with death as his greatest source of anxiety."

No tributary flows into the last 1,450 miles of the Nile River.

Q. Why is lightning more common in summer than in winter?

A. It's generated by atmospheric temperature changes. In winter, both the upper and lower atmospheres remain cold. In summer the upper atmosphere may stay cold while the lower one warms.

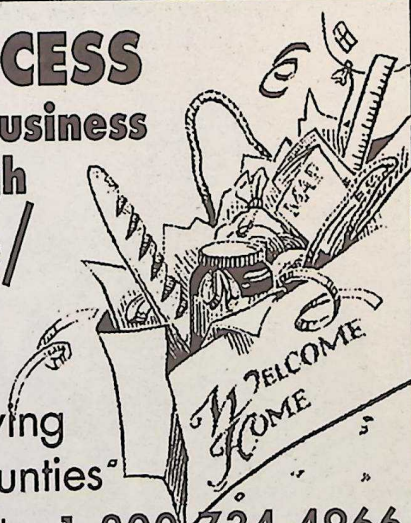
Lightbulbs in New York City's subways screw into their sockets with left-hand threads so thieves can't quickly replenish their household bulb supplies.

On Dec. 6, 1917, a Norwegian merchant vessel collided with a French munitions ship in the harbor of Halifax, Nova Scotia. Thousands were injured, at least 1,700 fatally, and the power beneath the mushroom cloud destroyed a quarter of the city. Historians say it was the worst man-made explosion before the atomic bomb.

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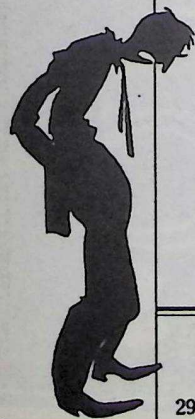
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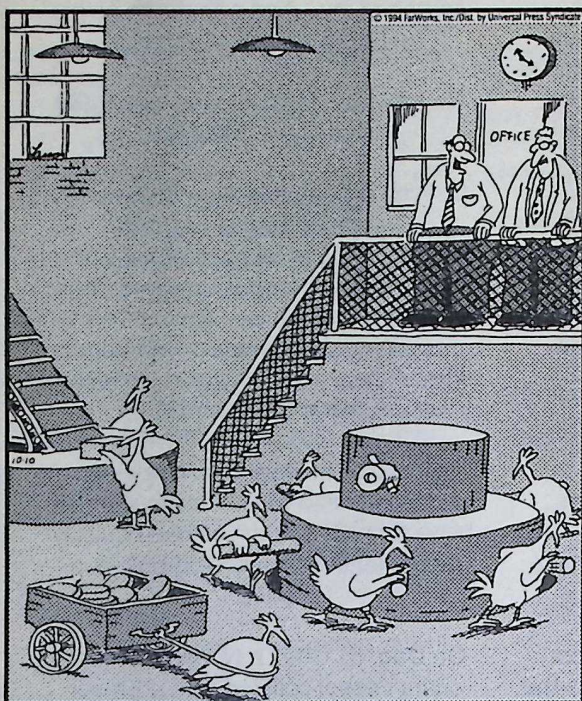
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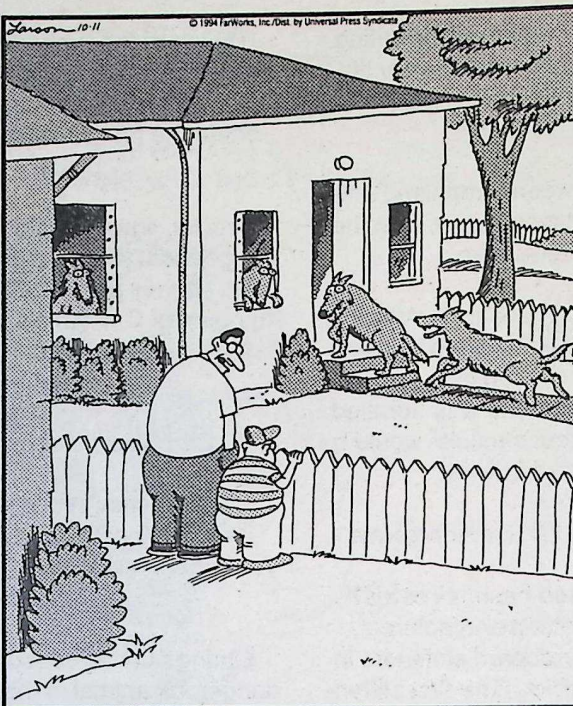


# THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"Oh, yeah! They work real hard, all day long, seven days a week! ... And here's the best part — for chicken feed!"



"I know you miss the Wainwrights, Bobby, but they were weak and stupid people — and that's why we have wolves and other large predators."



Despite his repeated efforts to explain things to her, Satan could never dissuade his mother from offering cookies and milk to the accursed.

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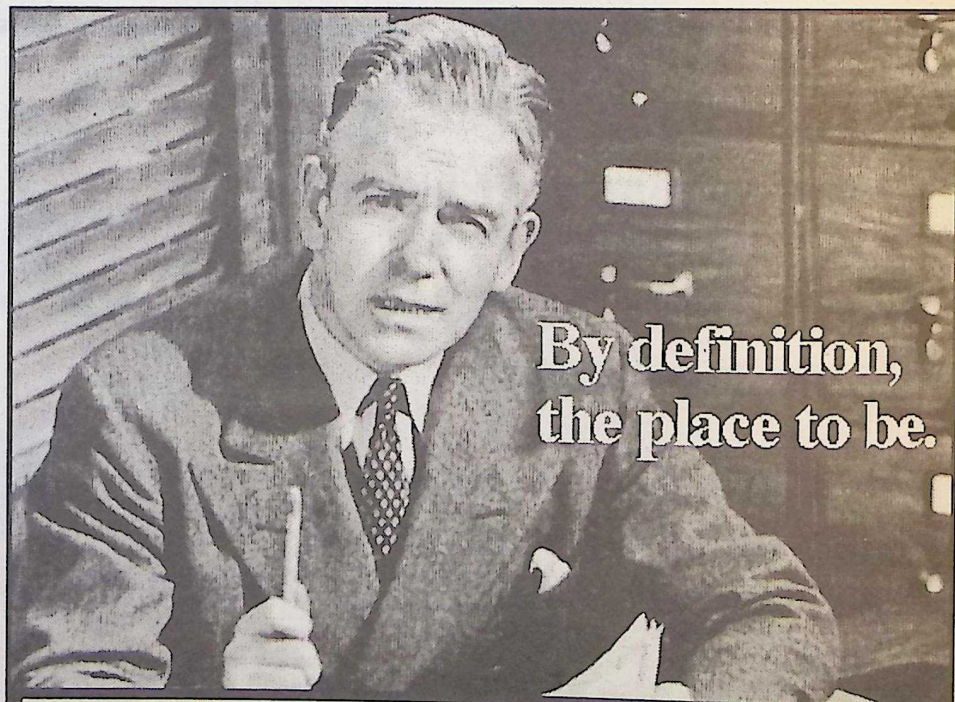
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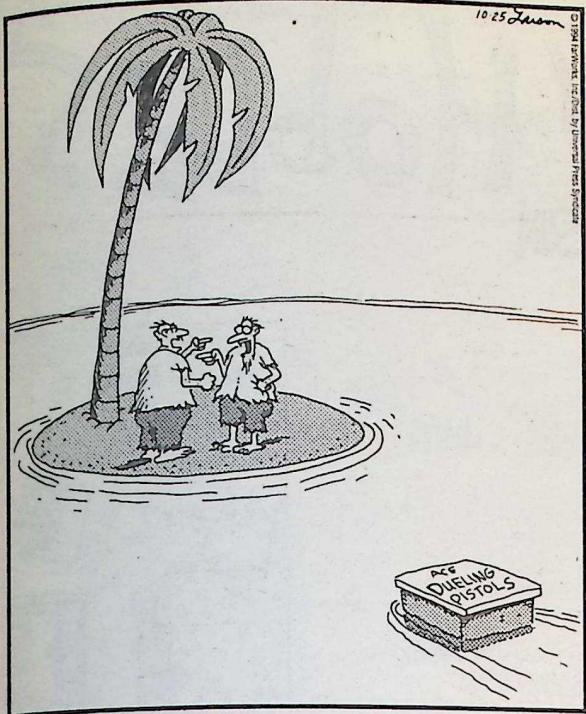
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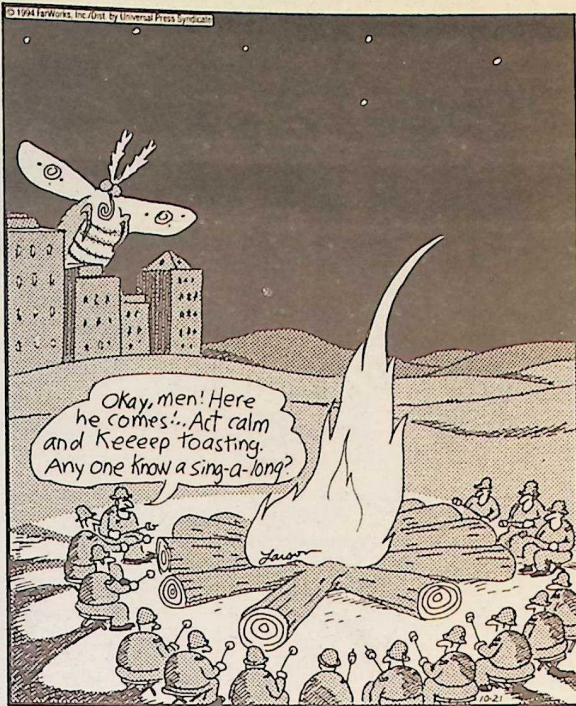
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COMIC  
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The gods play with Ted and Jerry



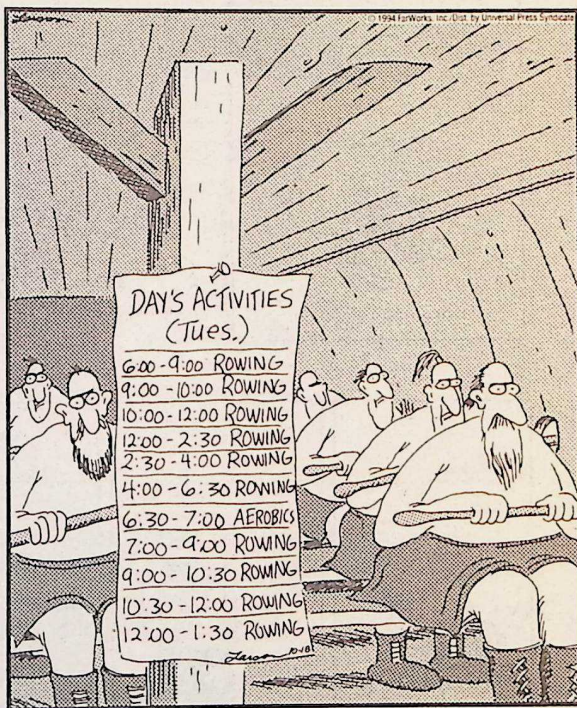
The Army's last-ditch effort to destroy Mothra.



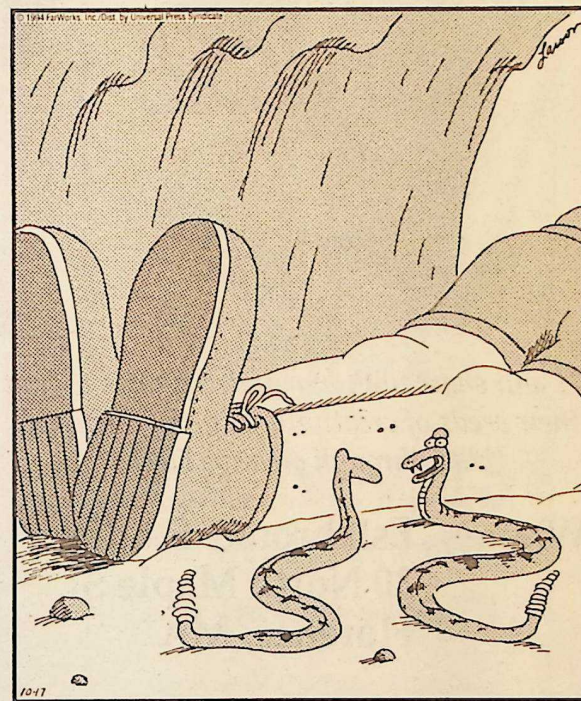
"And I say we go outside and we play with this ball!"



Life in the Old Weth



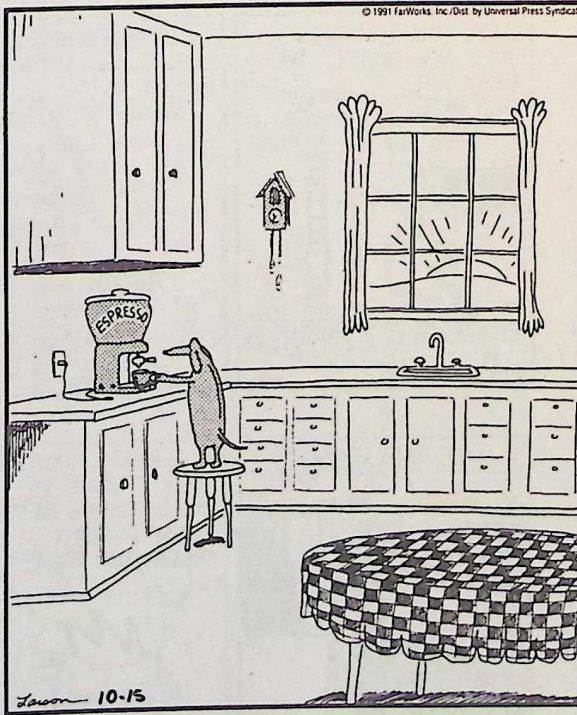
Slave-ship daily schedules



"Excuse me? Excuse me? ... I believe the biggest set of fang marks belong to me, my friend!"



It was over. But the way the townsfolk called it, neither man was a clear winner.



While their owners sleep, nervous little dogs prepare for their day.





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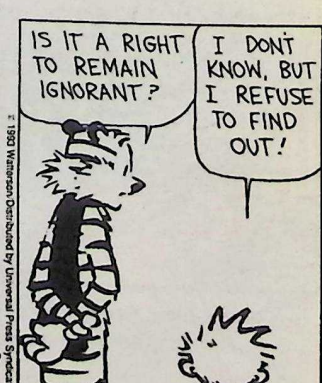
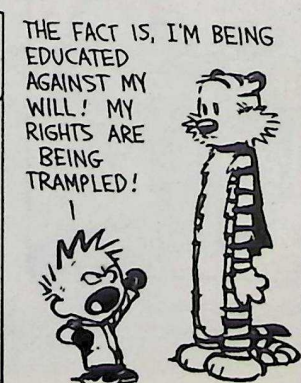
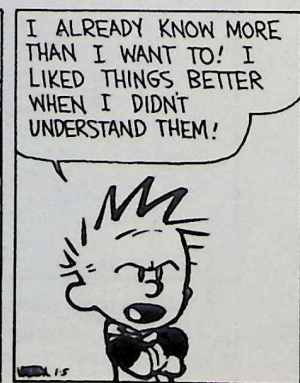
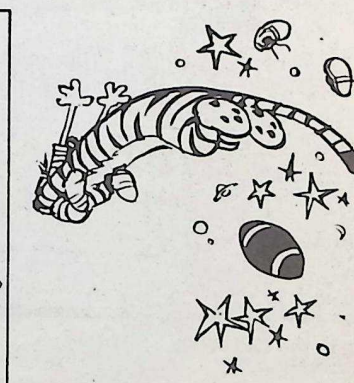
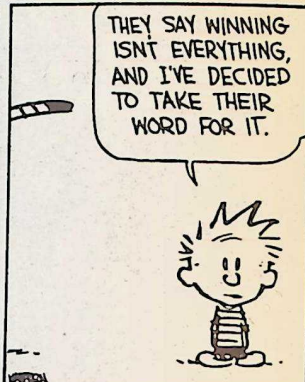
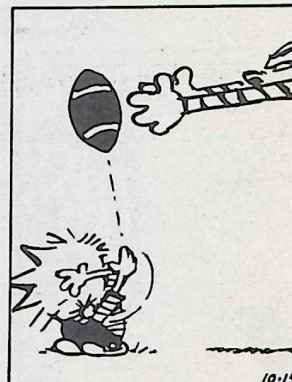
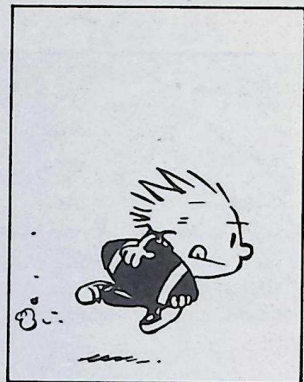
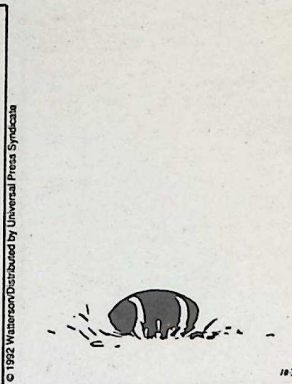
How: **Call my Studio to Register: 586-3869**  
privates by arrangement

## EstaBrooks Exhibitions

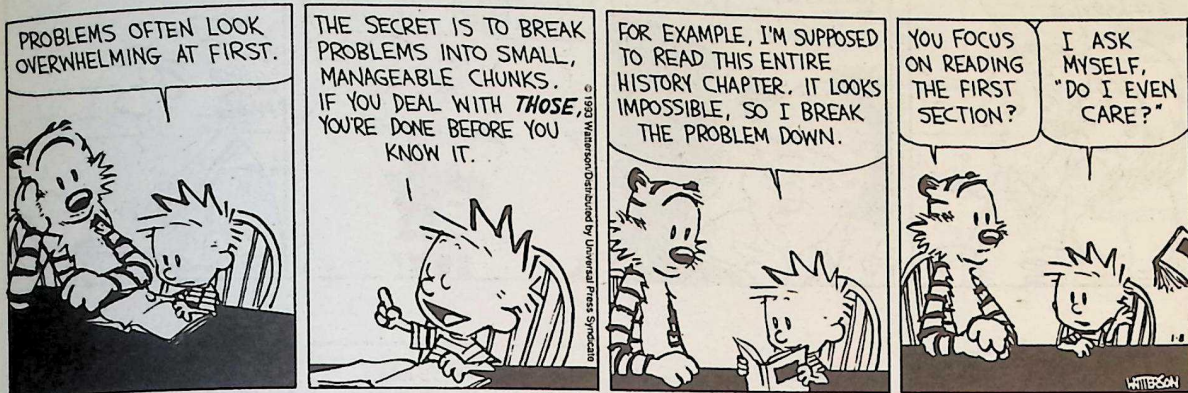
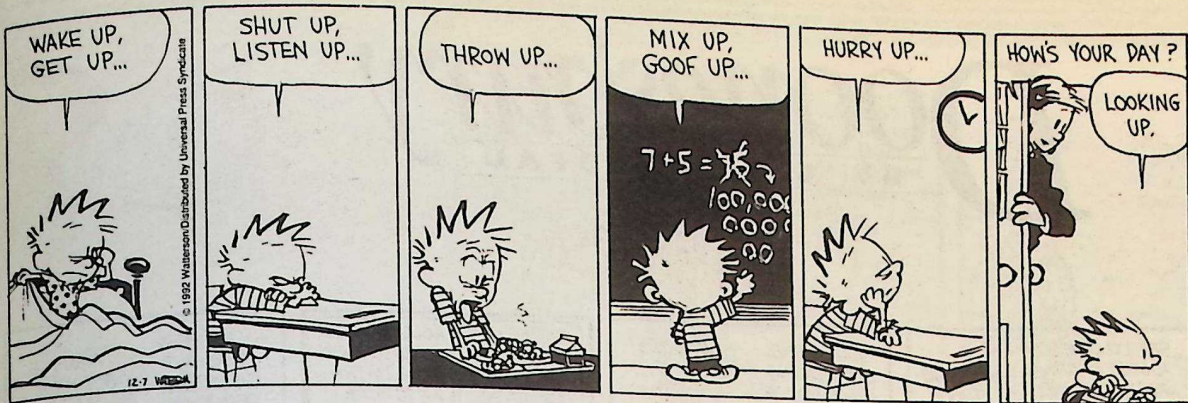
A collection of Donna Estabrooks' "Healing Paintings~Healing Drawings":  
Joel McFadden Designs, Greenfield -thru Oct.31  
Cafe Mediterranean, Amherst -thru Nov. 15  
Bread & Circus, Hadley -thru Nov. 14  
The Artworks, Northampton -ongoing  
Imagine, Easthampton - thru Nov.15  
Sara's, Whately -thru Nov. 30

# calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON







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# Leold

by Roger & Salem Salloom

Life is just totally tough.  
It's a bear.

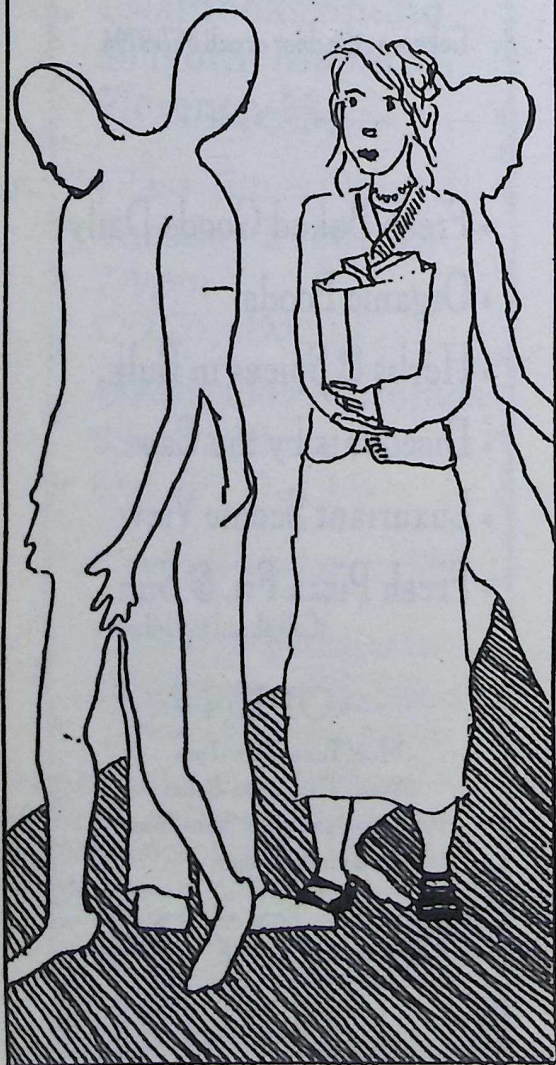
I meet my ex-girlfriend and she  
says, "How are you?"

I say, "Fine." Actually, I felt so  
nervous and upset to see her that  
"Fine" described the tiny particles my  
brain had broken into when I saw her.

She was standing there looking  
fragile, lovely, hair by Warner Bros., lips  
by Renoir, and gentle vocals by Lee  
Remick.

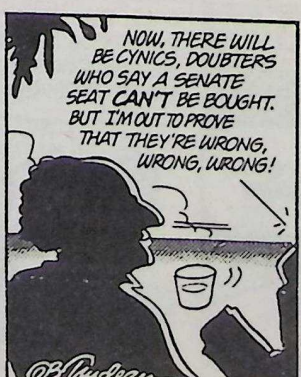
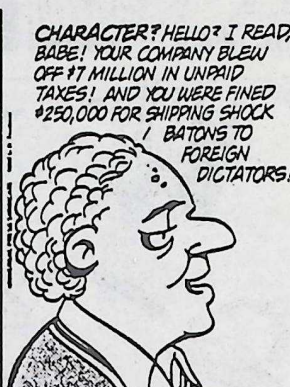
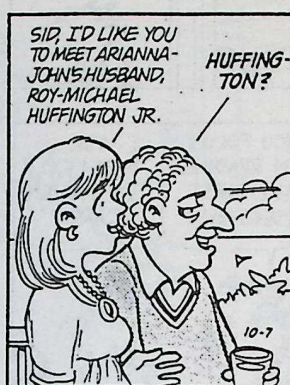
I said, "How are you?"  
She started to cry.

That made me feel much  
better.

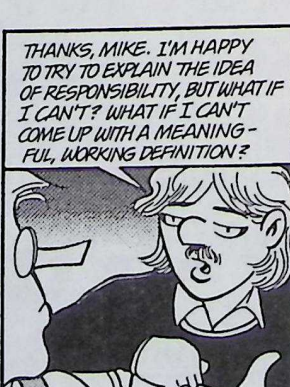
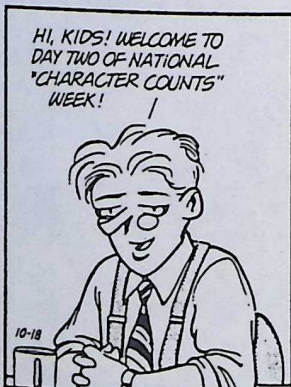
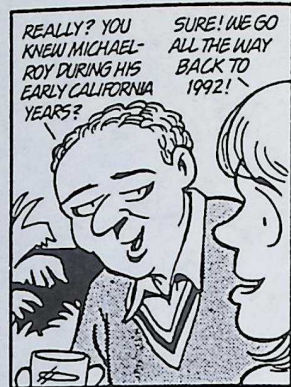
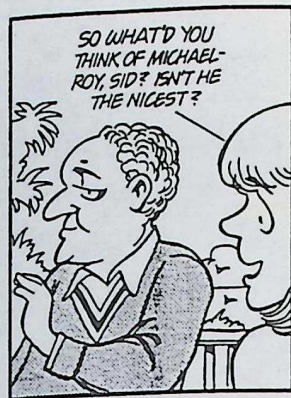


# Doonesbury

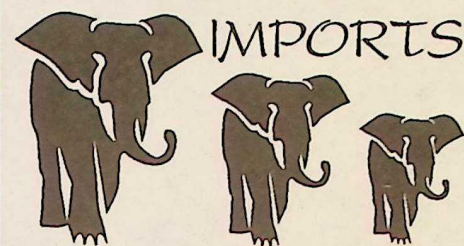
BY G.B. TRUDEAU







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